

Notes from Sybil Brand Commission Inspection at the Century Station –Frank Bacio and Maxine Russell

Deputy Clayton Marion introduced us to Captain Joe Nunez and Kelly L. Adler (Operations Director). They spent nearly four hours on our inspection. We were very impressed with both Captain Nunez and Kelly Adler. They have a wonderful rapport with both staff and the people that are there.

There are classes about anger management, drug addiction, parenting and other important life issues.

80% of the people there are there because of substance abuse, mental illness, or sexual abuse.

Captain Nunez believes that after a court date, the women can come back upset. Allowing them a phone call, even if they come back very late, to their children or family is very helpful.

They are at total capacity. Twin Towers gets the overflow.
They look at the count daily. The Division Chief is Dave Fender.
Mental Health has been expanded 100%.

They are talking about moving some girls to Wayside.
They are planning on sending people to Mira Loma in 2017. Kelly Adler is on the planning committee.
They want an outdoors area. Instead of cafeteria style serving of food, the women could get their food throughout the day.

They have a metal detector machine and are going to have body scanning machines. They also have an X-ray machine which can look for narcotics that are smuggled in.

In the past, they were cited for improvement in documentation, record keeping perimeter security, and program opportunities. But everything has improved immensely. All of the record keeping is done electronically on the computer. It is a huge facility, but everything was clean. Everyone reacted so positively to Captain Nunez and Kelly Adler. The women that were cleaning the floor were complimented and radiant smiles. You can see their self-esteem growing.

There has been an uptick in general of suicides, but not there. They not only have 15 minute checks, but random checks as well so no one knows when someone will be checking on them. There was a suicide last February. It was of a woman who had killed her two children. Her suicide was on the anniversary of their death. She used a plastic bag to suffocate herself. There was a natural death in November.

Court dates can be triggers.

There is an appointed commission called the Citizens Commission on Jail Violence (CCJV).

They have been very involved.

There is education based incarceration offered to Mental Health people incarcerated.

There are daily town hall meetings which cover every portal.

We attended a daily town hall meeting. There was Captain Nunez, Kelly Adler, a Nurse, and a Female Deputy. Everyone gave their name and their ID number. Most of the questions involved wanting to know when they would get out and if they were getting proper credit (either conservation, ½ day) Another person was concerned about the showers. She said she needed stronger materials to clean them with. The steam makes things very human and certain parts of the walls turn to rust. But there are also transients there. Over 300 use those showers daily. Some have great hygiene habits. Others throw

food on the floor, apples in the toilets, etc. They will leave pads on the floor rather than throwing them away. These were made to be holding cells, not to have 300 plus women shower. Captain Nunez would discuss release dates and smile saying, "I am not going to see you back here, am I." He had a wonderful rapport which we admired.

1300 and 1400 are women's units. They are two person cells, 96 people in each area.
There are bunks in day rooms.
They may have to go to court or some are pre-arraigned.

There are 366 inmate workers.
They do conservation work.
They get ½ day credit for certain jobs.
There are constant repairs being made such as flooding in the bathrooms.

There is split sentencing.
Courts, community and DA's office work together.

We met with the nurse.
There are 481 women on psychiatric medications.
160-170 – High Observation

Terry McDonnell has done some great work from the State.

Women are let out early if not sentenced.
600+ AB 109's
30% of the population
38% Hispanic
35% Black
21% White
Other

Everyone's medications are on the computer. When they leave there, if they are trustworthy, they are given their prescriptions to take with them.

They have reached out to the National Institute of Corrections.

They have one area where there are people that try to throw urine, feces, etc. out of a slit in their cells. They have learned from what works in other facilities by having special locks so the entire section of the cell with the slit can't be blocked by food such as peanut butter. The special locks that are needed are door tray locks.

There is a Facilitator's Manual (Called a Yellow Book) which has 45 topics.
After attending 360 hours of Life Skills Training, they become Merit Masters. It is an education based Life skills course. They can become Teacher's aides. Some also teach the mentally ill. It is a very successful program. They offer some in PM in the modules.

They also offer GED Preparation, but have found it is better to also make sure the women get their GED. When they get out, many don't know how to get the GED after the preparation so it is better to have that completed there. They also help with high school and even getting AA's in Junior College. Females used to be there 40 days, but now it is 89 on an average.

The longest sentence is 7 years.

The jail is being made into a prison and yet it isn't like a prison because there is no room to move around.

They have a huge patch of grass and dirt between buildings. If someone could clear it properly, it could be used for all kinds of things in the outdoors.

They are expecting to have 1,200 at Mira Loma in 2017. They want everyone to be able to dine freely, have outdoor time, have misters (because of the heat there), medical services which mirror Kaiser Permanente, meeting areas, and a life college campus.

There are mini clinics on each floor.

80% are on drugs already.

Meth- causes a lot of aggression

Crack

Alcohol

Marijuana

5150 Transported there.

Have chest x-rays, pregnancy tests, babies are born (St. Francis Hospital)-go to either DCFS or people on the outside.

People complain about a lack of responsiveness at the town halls, but Captain Nunez says that is because many women write multiple complaints and the volume is high with so many duplicates. But he goes through all of them daily.

For people that are suicidal, there are quilted gowns that can't be torn.

He quoted Sheriff Biscalus saying, "You are punished for your crimes. You shouldn't be punished by the staff."

2700 is the Diabetic module. There are 120 people there but not all are diabetic. Some are from the regular population.

I asked if there were any programs that had inmates training dogs. Kelly Adler said there was one at Men's Central Jail. They are considering having the program there.

There is a beautiful beauty shop. The walls have a sponge painted look in pink. It is very cheerful.

A beauty conference in Long Beach donated Paul Mitchell products.

There are before and after pictures of the women.

They also donate to "Locks of Love" and have photos with the locks of hair that were cut off, held in their hands. It instills such pride.

It is run by a licensed beautician and there are incarcerated women that are licensed beauticians too.

We were given a tour of the kitchen by Jimmy Ledesma. There is a culinary class offered there as well as baking classes. (6-2, 10 students each) Baking class taught by LA Works.

They use the cook and chill method.

There are 200 gallon pots.

They cook 200 gallons. The food cooks and pasteurizes at 180-200 degrees.

There is a huge conveyer belt as well as a packaging machine.

They serve 20 LA Sheriff Dept. stations. Serve 2 cold, 1 hot meal daily.

They send out the meals two times a week.

They prepare 2100 meals at this facility.

They also prepare for 27 cities like Burbank, Pasadena, El Monte, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, etc. and want even more contracts.

About 200 people require special meals (Kosher, Diabetic, etc.). There is a full-time dietician.

The food is put into neat little packages sealed with plastic and labeled.

It takes about 45 minutes to cook the frozen food.

They are dual track.

People can remain in custody. They don't have to go outside to get promoted.

They will have their first dual track lieutenant's exam this October.

They are the largest female facility.

There is an inmate family community program meeting. Parents can discuss concerns about their children and other issues.

There is a "Ask the Captain" program and he responds within 24 hours.

If there is a death in the family, they may be granted leave but with heavy security.

Dave Fender is the Chief. Steve Johnson is the commander.

WHAT THEY NEED:

More products for the beauty salon

Video cameras in the hallways, elevators, search area, reception and clinics.

They made this request last week.

A woman had just come in and was holding her stomach. Captain Nunez walked over to her and asked her if she was okay. She was pregnant and having stomach pains. He assured her she would be seen right away by a doctor.

We were shown an outside area (no cameras) where everyone is strip searched. It is normally covered with a tarp. They steam clean the area after each person. There is an audio recording of the commands. Everyone is assigned a number so there is no confusion when a command is given, which person it is directed at.